



RE: Northern Pass Transmission-Eversource SEC Docket No. 2015-06

January 20, 2015

Martin Honigberg, Chairman
NH Site Evaluation Committee
NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302

Dear Mr. Honigberg,

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail advocates for complete burial of the Northern Pass where it crosses the Northern Forest Canoe Trail on the Upper Ammonoosuc River in Stark, New Hampshire.

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT) is a 740-mile recreational water trail corridor connecting Old Forge, New York to Fort Kent, Maine. As a non-profit organization, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail's mission is to protect and steward our water trail and foster community vitality to promote inspiring outdoor experiences in the Northern Forest Region. We are an internationally recognized destination for paddlers and a resource northern New Hampshire communities leverage as they develop and expand recreational tourism in the region.

The Upper Ammonoosuc is protected by the New Hampshire Rivers Management Protection Program and attracts paddlers seeking the picturesque vistas that the area is known for. Northern Forest Canoe Trail maintains three campsites and two public access points on the Upper Ammonoosuc River which draw consistent use during the prime paddling months of May–October. Local businesses in Groveton, Stark and Milan, New Hampshire have come to rely on the traffic generated by this pristine stretch of river to diversify their revenue streams and stabilize the viability of their business serving paddlers as the travel to and from the river and by offering canoe and kayak rentals as well as shuttle service.

The proposed Northern Pass raises a number of concerns that we would like to express:

Impact on User Experience

The proposed Northern Pass would string high voltage direct current lines across the trail along the corridor where AC lines currently exist. The existing wooden transmission line poles will be replaced by metal towers twice the height. This change combined with the widening of the power line corridor will create a significant change in the visual impact of the current power lines detracting further from the natural river experience that paddlers expect in this bucolic setting.